

AF/2673

Attorney's Docket No.: 12732-043001 / US4901



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kazutaka INUKAI  
Serial No. : 09/850,053  
Filed : May 8, 2001  
Title : LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE

Art Unit : 2673  
Examiner : Prabodh Dharja

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION IN REPLY TO ACTION OF JUNE 24, 2004

Claims 1-49 and 64-167 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, 22, 36, 64, 81, 98, 115, 132, 144 and 156 being independent. Claims 1-35 and 64-131 were previously withdrawn from consideration and claims 50-63 were previously canceled, leaving claims 36-49 and 132-167 (including independent claims 36, 132, 144 and 156) under consideration.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 38, 134, 146 and 158 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 36 is directed to a light emitting device that includes, among other elements, power source supply lines, opposing power source lines, and an opposing power source line driver circuit to which the opposing power source lines are connected. Claim 36 further recites that each pixel of the light emitting device includes a switching TFT, an electro luminescent element, and an electro luminescence driver TFT. The electro luminescent element includes a pixel electrode, an opposing electrode connected to one of the opposing power source lines, and an electro luminescence layer between the electrodes. The electro luminescence driver TFT includes a gate electrode connected to a source or drain region of the switching TFT, a source region connected to one of the power source supply lines, and a drain region connected to the pixel electrode.

Similarly, independent claim 132 recites a light emitting device that includes, among other elements, power source supply lines, opposing power source lines, and an opposing power source line driver circuit to which the opposing power source lines are connected. Claim 132 further recites that each pixel of the light emitting device includes an electro luminescent element

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that includes a pixel electrode, an opposing electrode connected to one of the opposing power source lines, and an electro luminescence layer between the electrodes.

Independent claim 144 recites a personal computer that includes an EL display device having features corresponding to the light emitting device of claim 36. Similarly, independent claim 156 recites a cellular telephone including a display having those features.

Claims 36, 37, 39-49, 132, 133, 135-145, 147, 156, 157 and 159-167 have been rejected as being anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,635,505). Applicant again requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejected because Tanaka does not describe or suggest the "opposing power source lines" and "the opposing power source line driver circuit" recited in the independent claims. As set forth in the specification, the opposing power source lines and the opposing power source line driver circuit are used to sequentially switch rows of pixels between emitting and non-emitting states. See the application at Fig. 4 and page 14, line 13 to page 21, line 13. By contrast, the counter electrodes 1 and 2 of Tanaka are used to apply different potentials to the pixels connected to, for example, odd and even numbered source signal lines for the purpose of enabling signals of opposite polarities to be applied to the odd and even numbered source signal lines. Thus, Tanaka does not describe or suggest the recited opposing power source lines connected to an opposing power source line driver circuit.

In response to this argument, the Examiner asserts that Tanaka shows opposing power source lines at Fig. 30B; col. 32, lines 45-59; col. 24, lines 4-17; col. 23, lines 45 and 46; col. 8, line 48 to col. 9, line 5, col. 3, lines 35-38, and col. 2, lines 39-46. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In particular, Fig. 30B and the accompanying discussion are directed to variations in routing of the power supply lines, and are silent as to the connection of the opposing electrode of the EL device 3807. Indeed, Fig. 30B does not even illustrate how the opposing electrode of the EL element is connected. Nor do the other passages noted by the Examiner provide any discussion of connecting an opposing electrode of the EL element to an opposing power source line driver circuit. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 36, 132, 144 and 156 should be withdrawn, as should the rejection of their dependent claims.

The difference between the claimed subject matter and Tanaka is further emphasized by dependent claims 142, 143, 155 and 167, which recite that the opposing power source lines are arranged such that adjacent pixels that are connected to a common source signal line are connected to different opposing power source lines. This arrangement is shown, for example, in Fig. 2 of the application. By contrast, Tanaka shows an arrangement in which pixels connected to the same source signal line are connected to the same counter electrode (see Tanaka at, for example, Figs. 1, 2, 7 and 8). Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, the rejection of claims 142, 143, 155 and 167 should be withdrawn.

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner states that the recited arrangement may be found at col. 8, line 48 to col. 9, line 5; col. 3, lines 35-38; and col. 2, lines 39-46. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In particular, those passages discuss connecting pixels connected to *different* source signal lines to different counter electrodes, rather than the recited connection of pixels connected to a *common* source signal line to different opposing power source lines. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 142, 143, 155 and 167 for at least this additional reason.

A notice of appeal was filed on November 24, 2004. No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/22/04

  
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